(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to make Government land free from encroachment and to ensure prevention of its recurrence?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Considering the seriousness of this problem, the Government has enacted the National highways (Land and Traffic) Act, 2002, which has come into effect from 27.1.2005.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The above Act provides, inter-alia, prevention and removal of unauthorised occupation of National Highway land. To exercise the powers and discharge the function under the Act, 192 Highway Administrations have been set up all over the country. These National Highway Administrations are empowered to take cognizance and removal of unauthorised occupation on National Highway land.

Budget for R&D

*39. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of our budget earmarked for Research and Development in relevant areas with a view to keeping ourselves abreast of latest technological innovations happenings all over the globe;

(b) whether Government are thinking of out-sourcing Research and Development work to specialized centres where capabilities exist for taking our technology to match the global standards; and

(c) To what extent the findings of the recent World Investment Report released by UNCTAD would be useful in updating technology in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Around six percent of the Central Plan Outlay has been earmerked for the six scientific departments of Atomic energy, Ocean Development, Science and Technology, Biotechnology, Scientific and Indusrial Research and Space during the current financial year 2005-06. Additionally, around eleven percent has earmerked for the ministries/departments of Agriculture, Health, Defence

Research & Development, Telecommunications, Information Technology and environment & Forests. These ministries/departments promote R&D in relevant areas so as to keep ourselves abreast of the lates technological innovations happening all over the globe.

(b) In order to take our technology to match global standards, the Government has launched schemes that promote public-private partnerships and R&D collaborations (nationally as well as internationally), rather than outsourcing of R&D to specialized centres. For example, under the scheme - New Millenium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI), the endeavour is to bring the best private sector partners and publicly funded institutions together to create technologies that provide technology leadership to the country.

(c) The World Investment Report 2005 released by UNCTAD focuses on Trans National Corporations (TNCs) and the Internationalization of R&D. According to the report: TNCs are internationalizing R&D and are now setting up R&D Centres not only in the developed countries but also in the developing countries in sectors such as automobiles, electronics, biotechnology and pharmaceuticals; developing countries are emerging as outward investors and their importance as recipients of FDI in more knowledge intensive activities is increasing; internationalization of R&D opens the door not only for the transfer of technology created elsewhere but also for the technology creation process itself in the host country and enables them to strengthe.i their innovation systems and upgrade industrially and technologically and internationalization has important implications for policy making. The findings of the report appear to be relevant for evolving policy mechanisms directed at attracting R&D related FDI into the country which is expected to help in technological up-gradation.

Subsidy to BSNL

*40. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) receive any subsidies and benefits/discounts in fees and levies which private telecom operators are subject to;